

Watford Borough Council meeting, 14 October 2015

Liberal Democrat group proposed response to the Local Government Boundary Commission draft recommendations

Proposal 1 – Stanborough and Meriden

We note the Commission's proposals and rationale for proposing include the Kytes Drive area in Stanborough and rejecting alternative proposals.

Despite the problems identified by the Commission in including the eastern side of St Albans Road in Stanborough to redress the imbalance in electorate size, we believe this would be a preferable solution to that proposed by the Commission.

While incorporating the east side of St Albans Road would mean Kilby Close, Holtsmere Close and Cow Lane would not have road access within Meriden ward, they all still have pedestrian access into neighbouring areas of Meriden, would not really be 'orphaned' from the rest of the ward and retain strong links to the 'Avenues' area of Meriden ward. The properties on St Albans Road facing away from Meriden and towards Stanborough would clearly have a relationship with the latter ward.

In our view the Commission's proposal of linking the Kytes Drive area to Stanborough ward is more problematic than the St Albans Road alternative. It leads to a very unusual configuration of Stanborough ward, in a figure of eight shape, linked only by the narrowest of boundaries. There will be a strong sense of the Kytes Drive area being severed from the rest of Stanborough ward, virtually a separate enclave. This area has strong community links to Meriden ward, most notably through the shared boundary onto Garston Park.

Accordingly, we would propose revision of the Commission's proposals along the following lines:

Move the eastern side of St Albans Road into Stanborough ward from Meriden (233 electors). Move Kytes Drive, Coates Dell and Coates Way from Stanborough into Meriden ward (352 electors).

This would result in the following electorates for these wards:

Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Electors per councillor	Variance from average	Electorate (2020)	Number of councillors per councillor	Variance from average
Meriden	3	5,891	1,963	-1%	6179	2,060	-5%
Stanborough	3	5,802	1,933	-2%	6079	2,026	-6%

Watford Borough Council meeting, 14 October 2015

Liberal Democrat group proposed response to the Local Government Boundary Commission draft recommendations

Proposal 2

We note the Commission’s proposals for the Leggatts/Nascot boundary, but believe that Greenbank Road has strong community links with Nascot and that it is undesirable to split the road. Feedback from local residents indicates a strong wish to remain within Nascot ward. We accept that other options to reduce the Nascot electorate in the short term are also problematic and that keeping Greenbank Road in Nascot would mean that in the short term Nascot had too many electors. Nonetheless, by 2020 projections indicate that Nascot will have to have come significantly towards the average. Even with the inclusion of the remainder of Greenbank Road it would be well within the 10% variance, with a smaller electorate than at least one other ward. In view of the long-term trend of Nascot moving towards the borough average, an excessive electorate in the short-term should be regarded as acceptable. Keeping Greenbank Road in Nascot would also avoid an awkward boundary in which Leggatts ward has a narrow and lengthy protrusion into what appears naturally to be part of Nascot.

**Proposal
Retain all of Greenbank Road in Nascot ward.**

This would result in the following situation for these wards:

Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Electors per councillor	Variance from average	Electorate (2020)	Number of councillors per councillor	Variance from average
Leggatts	3	5,809	1,936	-2%	6,103	2,034	-6%
Nascot	3	6,646	2,215	+12%	7,035	2,345	+8%